

mining



Southwest Oregon Miner's Association  
chapter Western Mining Council



# Newsletter

May, 1989

The weather has finally turned out to be nice and there is lots of mining activities going on. We should have more water this year so maybe everyone will be able to work longer. Lets hope for a good year.

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We welcome and Thank visitors, Jackie Albert, Grants Pass, John Benet, Graves Creek, Mr. Weaver, Talent, Or. LeRoy Morris, Canyonville, and Neil Groves, Azalea, Or. for attending our meeting. We hope you enjoyed it and will come back.

\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*

At our June 18 meeting, we will have Greg Gilpin from the State Forestry Office as a guest speaker. We will have a short business meeting starting at 6:00 P.M. as usual, then Greg will speak to us on the rules, regulations and safety precautions for the fire season. EVERYONE WELCOME!!!

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We extend our prayers and get well wishes to Emma Brolin, who had surgery and is at the home of her daughter.

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Pres. Crawford reported that he had had comments from other chapters saying they were not going to back anyone who lives permanently on a mining claim and does not mine. We have been asked about our position on this by several different people and also BLM. This is a very touchy situation and very complicated when you start deciding if someone is really trying to mine. There was quite a discussion on this. I think everyone agrees that this is a violation of the 1872 Mining Law that we all try to live by and uphold, but how do we decide if a man is mining or do we decide? We are going to be faced with this question more and more in the future, so we have to make a decision. Bruce stated that this decision must be made by all the members; it is your Association and your Legal Fund, so think about it and decide how you feel because it will be coming up for a vote in the near future.

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A vote was taken and approved to buy a tape recorder for the Mining Association. The one we are using is borrowed and must be returned.

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Bruce and Lorri attended a Wise Use Conference in Salem. Some of the issues discussed were timber, mining, spotted owl, LCDC, and access to the public lands, and what could be done. This is an effort to get all the land users together so we can keep what we have and not lose anymore lands or rights to the environmentalists. Some of the people attending were Senators, Congressmen, State Representatives, National Inholders Assoc., Loggers Assoc. Mining Assoc. Snowmobilers Assoc. and the Fruitgrowers Assoc.

Bruce attended this meeting to try to find some solution on what we can do to try to keep our rights, and from the information that he gathered, he advised everyone to more or less hold your ground, don't give in and when you take on a legal issue, make sure you are going to win before you start. Don't take on an issue that is going to get largely publicized in the newspaper and on radio or TV that you know you are going to lose before you get started. The environmentalists do not care about people. They are out to close the lands down, and if you have a confrontation with these people, the miner must stay within the law. Call the Sheriff. We cannot afford to have bad publicity. This is what they want. And most important - keep writing letters to your representatives, and even tho they may not agree with everything you say, write them a short Thank You note when you receive an answer.

a non-profit organization



If you are interested in seeing the information that Bruce and Lorri brought back, you can see it at the Mining Law Library at the Armadillo Mining Shop in Grants Pass. Since Bruce had a very short notice of this meeting and paid all of his and Lorri's expenses for this 4 day trip, the members present voted to refund him \$40 for the registration fee that he paid to attend this conference.

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Caroline Tucker made a report on the Merlin Parade. Our float did not win this year so better luck next year. (The Galice Store won a first place ribbon. Congratulations!) We Thank Dan Johnson and Caroline Tucker for all the hard work they put into the float. For those of you who didn't get to see it it will be at the Sourdough Booth at the Josephine County Fair. It is quite a little mining set up.

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SMALL MINERS/BLM Since the BLM tour was scheduled this month, there was no regular meeting. We left the Galice Hall at 9 AM May 24. The first stop was at the Rand Ranger Station. Eric Shoblom showed us all the buildings and gave a very interesting run down on the history and use of the buildings and surrounding sites. It is really nice. From there we went to Wolf Creek and up I 5. We saw a series of small clearcuts that had been worked out on a computer to blend in with the contour of the mountains, and it is hard to realize what it is if you are not looking for it. We went to the dam on Cow Creek and saw some of the areas that had been replanted and the work that had been done around the dam. We made a tour of the boat landings and fishing areas and bird nests that had been built. One of the new nests had a family in it. We ate a picnic lunch at the lake and watched the birds, wild geese and lots of fishermen. BLM told us of the problems they had involving the dam and the natural resources, and private lands and plans for the future. After lunch we made a tour up Quines Creek and viewed two mining areas that BLM had had to do reclamation work on. These areas were quite extensive and they had done a lot of work.

Because of the bad weather some of the areas that we were to see could not be reached, but it was really an interesting, informative, and enjoyable trip. If you ever get a chance to take one of these tours, don't miss it. BLM has a tremendous job trying to manage a fair and multiple use of the land for everyone and I personally think that the BLM people that we work with are doing a great job. Thank You for a very enjoyable day, Dave Reed, Bob Korfhage, Harold Belisle, Eric Schoblom, Matt Craddock, and Jim Badger. Next meeting June 28.

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There is more and more pressure being put on Congress to change the 1872 Mining Laws !! If you want to keep your right to prospect and mine please get those letters mailed. Every letter counts and if they don't know how many miners there are and how we feel then we don't exist in Washington D.C. (They know how many environmentalists there are, they have the letters to prove it!)

A lot of us say "Well, I can't write letters and I don't have the time, so let Ole George do that for me. He's good at it and he has lots of time." The problem with that is that Ole George is just one name and he too, is busy and can only do so much. When you lose everything then you can look around in surprise and anger and say, "Damn Ole George! He was supposed to do that !!!" Come on people, we need lots and lots of names and letters. All you have to do is sit down for 5 minutes. Look around you and see all that beauty and the work and the way of life that you love. Then think - what would you do if you had to live and work in town and you could never be this way again? Now, pick up your pencil and write down what you feel in your heart. The more letters you write, the easier it will get and these letters are read and most of them answered. When you get an answer, write a short Thank You note back to them.

This is going to be a very, very tough battle this year and we either all join together and fight or we look for another way to live. Throughout America's history, we have fought for our Rights and our Freedom! Lets don't give up Now!!

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■ IN 1918. Fred W. Rodolf, who has been in charge of a mineral surveying crew working in the Galice District, is in the city, having broken camp for the winter.

On May 30, 1907  
J.M. Nicholl of the Joshua Hendee Iron Works was in Grants Pass Tuesday and left the next morning for Waldo, where he is superintending the installation of new mining machinery for the Deep Gravel mine.

Lucile Pieren's name was drawn for the \$5 doorprize. Sorry you were not there, Lucile. Next meeting the door prize will be \$10.

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John Mohr's cookies were delicious and so was Sannaraha Water's cake. Thanks you two for furnishing the eats for the meeting.

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■ ON DECEMBER 22, 1907. Considerable excitement was created in local mining circles the other day by the announcement that one of the miners prospecting on "Old Baldy," right here near the city, had struck a rich pocket, worth all of \$500.

■ ON DECEMBER 20, 1898. Dornce E. Dotson of Kerby paid his father's family a visit this week. Mr. Dotson has been working in the mines in that section for some time and he has nothing but favorable reports to give on them.

For new members who are not aware of it, we have a mining law library in the Armadillo Mining Shop in Grants Pass. 2041 N.W. Vine Street 503-476-6316 To use the library, go behind the counter through the door to your left. Material there may be checked out for a 2 week period or you may browse in the library. Also if you have anything that you would like to donate to this library it will be appreciated. The material in this library was donated by our members and the public with a very large part of the information donated by BIM. Please feel free to use it.

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That's about it for this month, may God Bless you and yours and remember; Most folks are generally about as happy as they have made up their minds to be!

Joyce

WAS

Since snakes grow steadily, they are obliged to change their tight and hampering skin, which does not grow, at an average interval of six weeks. Large ladies in tight undergarments, take note.

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FREE DUCKS to a good home. Call Sannaraha Waters 474-5632 801 Galice Creek Road. Galice, Or. 97532.

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Wayne Good would like to contact someone in the Josephine or Jackson County area who is processing ore. Call 582-3503 in Rogue River, Or.

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Did you know the first U.S. nickel was minted May 16, 1868?

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A great big Thanks to Loy Yokum-- AGAIN! He brought a beautiful cabinet that he made to hold a television and VCR. It has doors that can be locked. We have a TV so all we need now is a VCR.

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Members of the Small Miners/BIM group received a Thank You letter from Bob Korfhage of BIM for their help on the cleanup of the Alyce Ball and Gary Boeldt claims.

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Don't forget that we have the Josephine County Fair coming up soon. We will need lots of help and gold for the panning at the Sourdough Booth. Contact Caroline Tucker at the meeting or at 12105 Lower Grave Creek Road. Wolf Creek, Or. 97497.

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Don't forget - next meeting June 18, 6:00 P.M. Guest speaker Greg Gilpin

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"Wrong pulley Flo! Wrong Pulley!!"



JUNE, 1989

First of all - APOLOGY!!! You didn't get your newsletter last month. The copy machine had a hitch in its get-a-long and had to be repaired, so you will get a 2 month newsletter this time. I'm very sorry if this caused you any inconvenience.

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We all send our prayers and best wishes to Eleanor Gilpin who recently had surgery. Get well soon !

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**NOTICE!!** There will be a **POTLUCK** at our July 16 meeting!! The potluck will be after our regular business meeting which starts at 6:00 P.M. Bring your favorite dish and drink, a friend or neighbor and have fun. Coffee is furnished by the Assoc. also paper plates, plastic silverware, if you don't want to bring your own. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**

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We enjoyed the interesting talk that Greg Gilpin of the State Forestry Office gave us. The following is some of the information that he gave us. The State Forestry administers the fire laws on all land in Oregon except U.S. Forest Service. Oregon law says if you have a claim on U.S. Forest land, you still need a permit from the State Forestry Office. The permit is free. It also says that if you are wilful, malicious, or negligent in the origin of a fire, you are liable for all cost. One of the definitions of negligence is not properly maintaining your equipment. Each fire is investigated. State Forestry has the authority to write citations - this can be a citation to appear in court or a warning. Greg defined dredging and cutting personal firewood as recreational. If you use any kind of heavy equipment, you are considered a commercial operation and you must obtain a permit from his office. During fire season closures, if you are a landowner, (including claims) you cannot be denied access to your property. You can go in and check your property but if conditions are dangerous you may be told that you cannot run your operation. At times and under certain conditions you may obtain a waiver. The day fire season starts these things go into effect - no smoking except in cleared areas with bare dirt. You must have a shovel, axe, fire extinguisher, and spark arrestor or factory made muffler on the vehicle or equipment that you are driving. If your equipment is fully turbo charged, you do not need a spark arrestor. You must have a water supply that will reach to where you are working. For power saws, a screen in your exhaust, shovel, axe, and fire extinguisher in your work area. The main object is to prevent fires! If you have any questions please contact the Oregon State Forestry Office, 5375 Monument Drive, 474-3152. Thank you very much Greg. We appreciate the information and the time you gave us.

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In the absence of Vice-Pres. Caroline Tucker, Dan Johnson gave a report on the WMC meeting. WMC is sending 2 people to Congress to lobby against the proposed changes in the 1872 mining laws. This takes lots of money, so if you can help out, please do.

**PLEASE READ!!!!** Senator Dale Bumpers has released a draft bill entitled the Mining Law of 1989. It would replace the current Mining Law System.

**SUMMARY :** Sec. 201 -Prospecting - would require notification of the appropriate surface managing agency.

Sec. 202 - Exploration Claims - Require location of 20 acre "exploration claims". The claim has a 10 year term. Establishes a \$100 per claim recordation fee. An exploration plan (including reclamation plan) must be submitted if surface disturbance is contemplated. If a plan is disapproved, the claim is null and void.

Sec. 203 - Mineral Patents - A mineral patent application must be submitted prior to development or production and in any case, within 10 years of claim location. A mineral patent will be granted if it is determined that: the claims contain "a substantial hardrock mineral deposit capable of commercial development" and the claim holder has an approved mining and reclamation plan. A patent will include the hardrock minerals only in the claim and the right to use the surface for mining purposes (subject to regulations) The annual surface use fee will be not less than \$5 per acre. Establishes an 8% royalty based on "the value of hardrock mineral production". Patent will revert to the federal government if production of minerals in paying quantities has not begun within 15 years of patent issuance or upon termination of production.

Sec. 204 Diligence - requires an annual expenditure per acre as follows; 1-5 years - exploration claim, \$50, mineral patent - \$100. 5-10 years - exploration claim, \$100, patent \$200. 10-15 years - mineral patent \$300. May make payments in lieu of labor. Holders of claims and patents must file annually; \$100 holding fee and proof of labor or payment.

Sec. 301 - Regulations and reclamation - Authorizes promulgation of regulations to minimize adverse effects on the environment. Lands must be restored to a condition capable of supporting uses supported prior to mining. Reclamation shall be conducted concurrently with mining if feasible.

Sec. 302 - Bonds claims and patents require filing of performance bonds sufficient to insure "complete and timely reclamation".

Sec. 401 - Requires land managers to provide that potential mineral exploration and development be conducted so as to protect non-mineral values and resources.

Sec. 501 - As of date of introduction, no new mining claims shall be located pursuant to the Mining Law of 1872. No patents will be issued after date of introduction for existing claims except where patent application had been filed and all requirements for patent met.

Sec. 502 - Holders of valid existing claims shall within 3 years after date of enactment; relocate claim pursuant to provisions of Act. Annual holding fee and surface use fee would not apply and annual labor or payments in lieu would be 1/2 the amount specified in the Act, and maintain claims under the existing mining law. Starting 3 years after date of enactment, \$5,000 shall be spent annually on each claim. Reclamation and bonding will be mandated.

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Please get those letters in to stop this!!!!!! Write to: Senator Jeff Bingaman, Hart Senate Office Building, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-3102. Senator Nick Joe Rahall, Cannon House Office Building, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515-4804, and all your Congressmen, Senators, and Representatives NOW!!

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Frank Serroni's name was drawn for the doorprize of \$10. Sorry you were not there, Frank. Doorprize next meeting will be \$15.

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Happy Birthday to Lance Thomas, Bob Barton, Henry Kilburn, Norris Horn, and Valerie Farster!!!

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See you next meeting, July, 16, 6:00 P.M. Galice Community Hall. Remember; He that waits upon fortune is never sure of a dinner.

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*Joyce*

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**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
Western Mining Council, Inc.**

I hereby tender the sum of \$ 20 of which the sum \$10.00 is in full payment for a membership in said corporation and dues for the current year, and the sum of \$ 10 in payment of annual chapter dues to the Southwest Oregon Miners Assoc. Chapter of said Council.

I hereby tender the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution to the Legal Fund and/or the Sustaining Fund of Western Mining Council, Inc.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Lesa Barton <sup>2041</sup> N.W. Vine Street  
<sub>(over)</sub> Grants Pass, Or. 97526

You may join the Southwest Or. Miners Assoc. only for \$10 per year, per person.

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